

## Registration of agricultural chemicals and household insecticides

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### prepared by the Regulatory Section, Division of Agricultural Chemistry

To protect the purchaser, user, community and the environment, chemicals for pest and disease control in the home and garden must be registered under the Agricultural Chemicals Act before being offered for sale.

Household insecticides, most commonly available in pressurised containers, are also required to be registered.

This legislation ensures that the products are suitable for the purposes claimed and are clearly labelled to specify how and on what they can be used. Products must also be of minimum hazard to non-target species.

The legislation provides for inspection of products in the market place and prosecution of persons selling unregistered or mislabelled products or products not conforming with the label or a specified standard.

Product groups of interest to domestic users covered by the legislation are:

**Fungicides** — the traditional fungicides used on vegetables, fruit trees, etc. together with swimming pool algacides/bactericides and wood preservatives.

**Insecticides** — products for control of insect pests on fruit, vegetables and lawns as well as dog and cat collars and the household insecticides.

**Herbicides** — products for the control of weeds in lawns and for general weed control on paths, driveways, etc.

There are also some products that combine fungicides with insecticides (for use on roses or tomatoes, for example).

### Product assessment

Before any chemical can be used as a pesticide in Australia the results of years of research must be assessed by several expert commit-

tees at both federal and state level. The data that must be provided includes adequate information on efficacy, toxicology, residue levels and effects on the environment (see the agnote "Pesticide development").

### Labelling

The label reflects any limitations imposed by these committees of review as well as other statutory requirements.

### Poison scheduling

All chemicals are assessed and classified as either requiring scheduling or being exempted. If they are scheduled certain warning phrases must appear on the label (see the agnote "Safety and first aid with agricultural chemicals in the home and garden").

### Rates of use

The rates approved are such that maximum benefit with minimum hazard is achieved with the product.

### Withholding periods

This is **not** related to the time of effectiveness of the chemical.

It is the necessary period following treatment during which the fruit or vegetable **must not be harvested** to allow residues from the treatment to degrade to a level of no significance.

### Safety directions and first aid

These are provided for your safety — carry out all the precautions stated.

### Packaging

The pack sizes available are designed to provide sufficient product for up to a year's needs.

Do not purchase more than is needed immediately.

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